



# **Arizona Chamber of Commerce Forecast Luncheon**

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer  
Friday, January 7, 2011

Thank you.

I'm delighted to be with you today -- along with our Legislative Leadership -- to share some thoughts about where we're headed in this New Year.

Just four days ago, I was both humbled and honored to take the Oath of Office as Governor of this great state ... this time as your ELECTED Governor!

The ceremonies are now over, so, the time has come for us to continue with the people's business -- to fulfill our mission and responsibility to our citizens.

And, I intend to do just that.

The people told us they want a government that is more responsive, and less intrusive -- one that is more efficient, and less cumbersome -- one that is more frugal, and less wasteful.

I believe last year we set the stage for recovery with hard choices and difficult work, and this year more hard choices and difficult tasks are still ahead of us.

But, I believe -- with very few exceptions-- you and I are on the same page.

We both are dedicated to resolving the budget crisis and building a stronger economy.

We both support job retention and regulatory reform.

On issue after issue, we share the same priorities.

With such unity of purpose, I'm optimistic about building upon – and continuing – the successes of last year.

And, I can tell you, one thing is for certain.

Gone are the days of the open checkbook when every feel-good program and project were funded -- regardless of their lasting value -- or their effectiveness.

That means we're preparing for when the temporary sales tax ends in three years.

And let me take this opportunity to thank you for your support of Proposition 100.

I know for many of you, it wasn't easy – but it was the RIGHT thing to do, and I thank you for standing with me when tough choices had to be made.

I've said many times that passage of Proposition 100, while necessary, was not a cure-all. Many more hard decisions will have to be made, while still protecting our State's priorities.

So, as we move forward, dealing with the budget deficit, it is clear we must:

- Focus on job creation and encourage economic growth.
- Streamline state government.
- And, institute permanent, long-term budget reforms.

I can ALSO tell you that the Arizona Commerce Authority is a vital part of our plan – essentially the bedrock of our strategy, and I intend to see that it flourishes.

I remain committed to the job closing fund and well-timed tax cuts targeted at job creation.

States we're competing with -- such as Texas, Virginia and Florida -- all have 21st century economic development agencies and deal closing funds.

For us to compete, Arizona must have those, too.

But, the Commerce Authority cannot do it alone.

We need to replace Arizona's enterprise zone tax incentive program with a statewide program to reward companies with tax incentives that create high-quality jobs.

Over the longer-term, we need to phase-in reforms to our tax structure where Arizona is not competitive.

This includes what I have long advocated – part of my 5-point plan – a reduction to the Corporate Income tax – to be competitive with other States.

And, I do not believe that the overall state tax burden should be increased going forward.

Arizona families have always been the centerpiece of all that I do, and they will remain that way.

I will have more specifics, and, I believe, some exciting ideas, for all of you on Monday -- and I look forward to sharing those with you then.

Meanwhile, thank you for your partnership, as we all work to make this a better state in a New Year that is filled with hope and promise.

Finally, let me leave you with the paraphrased words of Abraham Lincoln from his Message to Congress in 1862:

The dogmas of the quiet past, are inadequate to the stormy present.

The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion.

As our case is new, so we must THINK anew, and ACT anew ... and THEN ... we shall SAVE OUR STATE.

God bless you all and your families, God bless the work that you do, and God bless Arizona.

Thank you.